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Theory of Soviet Amiability Revived in Secret CIA Report

Nikita Threats Are Dismissed as 'Oratory'

BY WILLARD EDWARDS
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Aug. 22—United States' foreign policy planners are studying a top-level intelligence report depicting Russia as an increasingly amiable power open to peaceful settlement of international disputes.

This Russia—its mellowing theory went into temporary eclipse after the Cuban missile crisis of October, 1962. Evidence it again is thriving in the highest circles of the Johnson administration has been obtained by THE TRIBUNE.

A 47-page report dated Feb. 19, 1964, and marked "secret" has been circulated in the White House, national security council, and the state and defense departments.

Prepared by C. I. A.

Based on reports gathered by the world-wide espionage network of the central intelligence agency, it was prepared and endorsed by the board of national estimates of that agency.

It argues that the Soviet Union, under the impact of economic stress and difficulties with Red China, is losing its hostility to the west and is seeking a new kind of relationship with the United States.

This comforting theme brushes off the bellicose threats of Nikita Khrushchev as a kind of international communist propaganda.

Khrushchev, the report asserts, has made a decision to negotiate better relations with the United States. The source of this information is not disclosed.

Red Activity Brushed Aside

Despite the establishment of a soviet outpost in Cuba and

communist subversion and terrorism in Africa, the far east and South America, the report expresses the belief that Russia will diminish "the vigor of its revolutionary effort outside the communist world" in the future.

A dark picture was drawn of the situation in Viet Nam, where "there remains serious doubt that victory can be won" and a "prolonged stalemate" is the most to be anticipated. The report says "some kind of negotiated settlement based upon neutralization" is the only solution.

If the communist world has its troubles, they are matched by similar developments in the west, the paper asserts. Europe views the United States as "overdramatizing" its problems in Latin America and the far east. American influence in Europe is waning.

The report has a covering memorandum signed by Sherman Kent, chairman of the board of national estimates. He noted that the contents, entitled "Trends in the World Situation," had been "twice revised and supplemented after board discussion."

Johnson Heads Board

The board of estimates of the CIA submits its findings to the

board, which operates within the national security council structure. The council is headed by President Johnson, with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara as its leading members.

The theme that Russia is evolving into a potential ally, having abandoned its goal of world conquest, was advanced more than two years ago in a secret strategy guide compiled by Walt W. Rostow, chairman of the state department's policy planning board.

Disclosure Stirs Furor

Disclosure of the Rostow report by this newspaper in June, 1962, caused a storm in Congress and the questioning of Rostow in secret session. He invoked executive privilege to avoid comment on a classified document. The state department declared the newspaper report had been "garbled" and "distorted."

Four months later, the late President Kennedy and Khrushchev were confronting each other in a crisis aroused by the discovery of soviet missiles in Cuba. Talk about Russia's peaceful intentions subsided for a time but in June, 1963, Kennedy again was calling for a change of attitude toward the Soviet Union.

The new report under study by the policy-planners argues that the stand taken by Kennedy in the Cuban affair disillusioned soviet leaders about the usefulness of military power in international disputes. It suggested the possession of

a predominant factor in foreign policy.

Meets Stiff Opposition

This contention, implying advocacy of a negative defense policy intended to maintain the status quo while Russia evolves into a peace-loving state, has met with spirited opposition in some government circles. The joint chiefs of staff, at the time of the nuclear test ban hearings, prepared a position paper which stated flatly that "militant Communism remains dedicated to the destruction of our society."

Summarizing its survey of "world trends," the CIA document remarks:

"It is possible in the present context of soviet policy—particularly to the extent that this policy derives from the U. S. S. R.'s appreciation of the military situation and from its own difficulties at home and within the communist world—that some movement toward the settlement of some international issues will occur."

The obstacles to a "general detente" [widespread relaxation of tensions] remained great, the paper conceded, because of such problems as Berlin and "the new tensions and problems which will arise from the disorderly character of so much of the world."

Cites Long-Run Changes

Over the "longer run," the paper continued, "we continue to believe that the gradual changes taking place in the U. S. S. R. will diminish its hostility to the west and the revolutionary effort